

Kelly Beard-Tittone
12821 Grandview Rd.
Grandview, MO 64030
January 21, 2001

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Docket # 98P-0151/CP1
FDA
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Dockets Manager:

I understand last year USDA announced a new policy to stop purchasing meat from downed cows for Federal programs like the National School Lunch Program. For consistency, please consider granting petition 98P-0151/CP1 to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals.

Granting such a petition makes sense from both the humane standpoint as well as the human health standpoint. Inhumane methods are used to move downed animals. I have seen documentation of cows being picked up by a front loader. Like they weren't even sentient beings. Yet, the cows were alive. I remember one cow's head hanging over the side. As an athlete, I know sometimes the pain of a pulled muscle. What must the downed cows be feeling? Already downed and then pulled by one leg.

Once a downed animal enters the market, everyone not only has bacterial contamination to worry about, but also such diseases as Mad Cow disease.

With downed animals being such a small percentage of the animals slaughtered, why put the animals through the suffering and put so many people at such risk? By granting the petition you will not create an economic hardship. You will protect human health and force the industry to prevent animals from becoming downed (industry experts estimate that 90% of this problem can be prevented with better care and handling.)

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelly M Beard-Tittone

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